MiG Crashes

3436. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) causes of the high rate of crashes of MiG aircrafts; and

(b) how many civilians have died due to the aircraft crashes in the past three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA):

(a) The major causes of MiG aircraft crashes are Human Error (HE), Technical Defect (TD) and Bird Hit (BH).

(b) The number of civilians killed in the last three years is as follows:

2000-2001	01
2001-2002	03
2002-2003 (Upto 31st March, 2003)	23

Railway Gauge Conversion of Rangia Murkongchelek

3437. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for funding the Gauge Conversion of Rangia Murkongchelek section of NF Railway was received by the Ministry on the ground of Defence consideration;

(b) if so, the dale of receipt of the proposal from Railways; and

(c) decision of the Ministry showing total provision made in the budget 2003-2004 for the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY 6F DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) to (c) In December 2002. Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) had requested the Ministry of Defence for funding their proposal of Gauge conversion of North bank line from Rangia to Murkongchelek and linked fingers. The Ministry of Defence have recommended the proposal from operational point of view. However, the funding of the project